

Best Practice: sharks, skates and rays

- ✓ **Good handling practice** improves the long-term survival of sharks, skates and rays returned alive to the sea.
- ✓ **This can contribute to stock recovery** for species with landing obligation exemptions and Prohibited species.
- ✓ **Maximise the survival of any juvenile fish.**



Avoid deploying fishing gear in the vicinity of observed or reported bycatch events.



Inform other fishermen of the location of significant bycatch events and move away from the area.



Where possible, 'shake out' zero-TAC or Prohibited species from static gear back into the sea, prior to hauling gear back on board.



Increase the animal's chance of survival by handling with care.



Where possible, have a dedicated 'soft surface' area on deck to lay sharks, skates and rays on while removing fishing gear.



As quickly as possible, clear the net and return them to the water prior to sorting the commercial catch.



Process wanted catch as soon as safely possible; where possible avoid leaving fish in direct sunlight.

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